



This exercise was developed in conjunction with Lightbox interviews with [Rickey Laurentiis](#) and [Maurice Manning](#). For more information, please see www.lightboxpoetry.com.

Time and Place

Read a selection of poems from the following links, or use the library or internet to help you research additional offerings on poetry responding to Hurricane Katrina.

Read each poem and take note of various aspects:

- Who is the speaker?
- How does the poem think about Katrina?
- What specific details does the poem teach you/ask you to think about?
- How do different writers account for this event?

[Patricia Smith](#)

[Katie Ford](#)

[Natasha Trethewey](#)

[Nicole Cooley](#)

[Rickey Laurentiis](#)

Additional poems about Hurricane Katrina can be found at [The Poetry Society of America](#).

Next, do a bit of research from major newspapers about Hurricane Katrina. Read a few articles, listen to a few stories, and look at some photographs. You might begin by looking at the interactive feature "[Ten Years After Katrina](#)" at *The New York Times* or the photo essay "[The Day After Katrina](#)" at *Time Magazine*.

Reflection:

What can a poem capture that a news article cannot? What can a news article capture that a poem cannot? Reflect on how these differences affect the process of writing. Why do we respond to major events in our lives and in the lives of those around us in poetry?